

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

ABERCROMBIE, Neil (Democrat)
Representative, 1st District, Hawaii
Elected 1990 to 102nd Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Buffalo, New York - 26 June 1938

Home: Honolulu, Hawaii

Marital status: Married (Dr. Nancie Caraway)

Religion: Not specified

Education: Union College, BA, 1959; Univ of Hawaii, MA, 1964, PhD, 1974

Military: None

Profession: Teacher; consultant

Political: Unsuccessful bid for US Senate, 1970. HI House, 1975-79; HI Senate, 1979-86;

US House, 1986-87; Honolulu City Council, 1988-90. Elected 20Sep86 in a special election to finish the term of Rep Heftel (D), who ran for governor of Hawaii, but in Nov86, lost in the 1st District primary. Ran against Mike Liu (R) in 1990, winning with 61% of the vote. Reelected in 1998 with 62% of the vote; in 2000 with 69%; and in 2002 with 73%.

Rep Abercrombie, a liberal, is known as a political maverick. In the 107th Congress, received Legislator of the Year award from the Senior Army Reserve Commanders Association. He played a key role in blocking proposals to reduce the Army Reserve by approximately 25,000 troops and cut several hundred civilian support jobs nationwide. Announced that he secured approval for the release of \$37.6M for Ft DeRussy, Hickam AFB, and Pearl Harbor. Asserting that "no one is questioning that some form of missile defense is required, questioned some of the more ambitious systems under consideration. Believed the Congress must assess the role of missile defense policy in the overall context of national security and economic stability." Voted "present" on final passage of H.R. 3523, Enhanced Border Security and Visa Reform Act, because of concern that Section 306 established a "sweeping, over-broad prohibition against issuing non-immigrant visas to citizens of any nation on the State Department's list of terrorist states." Supported legislation he believed would level the playing field for federal workers facing the prospect of losing their jobs because of privatization; drew attention to Pearl Harbor, Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter, and Pohakuloa Training Area. Believed the Army should reverse a decision to privatize approximately nearly 200 jobs in Hawaii, because the war on terrorism triggers a federal law suspending the military privatization process. Sought hearings on the deployment of US soldiers to the Philippines as part of the campaign against terrorism. Also called for hearings prior to the creation of the new combatant command for North America. A new tugboat at the Kewalo Shipyard was christened the Neil Abercrombie in recognition of his support for the maritime industry and his efforts to maintain the Navy's presence in Hawaii. Opposes the development and deployment of nuclear-tipped ballistic missile interceptors; supports maintaining flexibility to reduce operationally deployed nuclear weapons below 1700; supports stronger notification requirements prior to resumption of underground nuclear testing.

Additional: His wife, Dr. Nancie Caraway, is an author and educator.

AF Bases: Hickam AFB; Hickam ANG

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Tactical Air & Land Forces (Ranking); Readiness; Projection Forces

RESOURCES